

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 SSM-03 DHA-02 ORM-02 OMB-01

MCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 /097 W

-----101350Z 105323 /46

R 101124Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 868

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 AMMAN 1379

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, JO, XF

SUBJECT: DELEGATES FROM JORDAN AND WEST BANK TO 13TH

PALESTINIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL CONFERENCE IN CAIRO

1. SUMMARY: DELEGATION OF 36 (INCLUDING 7 WEST BANK ACTIVISTS
EXPELLED LAST YEAR BUT NO CURRENT WEST BANK RESIDENTS) WILL ATTEND
CAIRO PNC MEETING FROM JORDAN. ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS, ONLY
8 HAVE PREVIOUSLY ATTENDED. PLO HAS ALSO INVITED 7 EAST
BANKERS, MOST OF WHOM RADICAL-TINGED, BUT INCLUDING TWO
AMONG AMMAN'S POLITICAL ESTABLISHMENT, TO ATTEND AS OBSERVERS.
DELEGATION, WHILE RELATIVELY MODERATE IN COMPARISON WITH HARD
CORE PLO ACTIVISTS OUTSIDE JORDAN IS RADICAL IN MILIEU OF
EAST BANK PALESTINIAN COMMUNITY AND EVEN INCLUDES SOME COMMUNISTS,
LEADING OLDER, BETTER-ESTABLISHED PALESTINIANS HERE TO DEPLORE
WHAT THEY CONSIDER TO BE PREPONDERANCE OF LONG-TIME PLO
RADICAL-ACTIVISTS LEADING EASILY-INFLUENCED NOVICES.
DELEGATION, THEREFORE, DOES NOT APPEAR TO FULFILL
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PLO'S AIM, AS EXPRESSED PRIVATELY IN RECENT VISITS
TO AMMAN, OF BROADENING ITS CONSTITUENCY, AT LEAST
IN JORDAN. NOR DOES IT APPEAR LIKELY TO DO MORE
THAN FOLLOW THE LEAD OF THE PLO LEADERSHIP UNDER
ARAFAT. END SUMMARY.

2. JORDANIAN NEWS MEDIA HAS PROVIDED THE NAMES OF

36 "MEMBERS OF PALESTINIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL RESIDENT IN JORDAN" WHO DESIGNATED TO ATTEND PNC CAIRO CONFERENCE CONVENING MARCH 12. PRESS ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT PLO INVITED 7 "JORDANIAN PERSONALITIES" TO ATTEND MEETINGS AS OBSERVERS.

3. BIODATA ON "DELEGATES:"

A) THOSE WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN PREVIOUS PNC SESSIONS:

- 1) IBRAHIM BAKR. LAWYER AND FORMER PLO EXCOMM MEMBER WELL KNOWN IN AMMAN AS PLO SPOKESMAN.
 - 2) YASER 'AMR. DITTO, BUT MORE LEFTIST-LEANING THAN BAKR. FROM HEBRON.
 - 3) FAYEQ WARRAD. WELL-KNOWN SECRETARY OF NATIONALIST CADRE OF JORDAN COMMUNIST PARTY; FORMER MEMBER OF JORDANIAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. FROM RAMALLAH AREA.
 - 4) BAHJAT ABU GHARBIYYEH. FORMER PLO MEMBER AND HEAD OF NOW-DEFUNCT POPULAR STRUGGLE FRONT; FORMER SCHOOL PRINCIPAL FROM JERUSALEM.
 - 5) ABD AR-RAHMAN ABU JBARA. PLO REP IN JORDAN. FROM JAFFA.
 - 6) ABD AL-MAJID SHOUMAN. AGING HIGHLY-RESPECTED HEAD OF PRESTIGIOUS ARAB BANK IN AMMAN; WELL KNOWN FOR HIS SUPPORT OF PLO. THE MOST "RESPECTABLE" AND WELL-TO-DO DELEGATE ON LIST, HE HAS CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED PLO SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN 1964. LONG-TIME AMMAN RESIDENT.
 - 7) MRS ISAM ABD AL-HADI. SEVERAL TIMES MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT; ELDERLY FORMER HEAD OF WOMEN'S SECTION AND MARTYRS' CARE SECTION OF PLO/JORDAN; EXPELLED FROM NABLUS
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SOON AFTER 1967 WAR.

- 8) REV ELIYYA KHOURY. MEMBER OF PLO EXCOMM; EXPELLED FROM RAMALLAH IN EARLY 1970'S; HEAD OF AMMAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

B) NEW MEMBERS (ACCORDING TO JORDANIAN AR-RAYY NEWSPAPER):

- 1) SHEIKH ABD AL-HAMID AS-SAYEH. FORMER GRAND MUFTI OF JERUSALEM AND MINISTER OF AWQAF, EXPELLED FROM WEST BANK IN 1968; OUTSPOKEN ADVOCATE OF PALESTINIAN CAUSES IN AMMAN.
- 2) NAJIB AL-AHMAD. FORMER MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR JENIN; FORMER PLO MEMBER.
- 3) IBRAHIM QUB'A. RADICAL YOUTHFUL EXPELLEE FROM TULKARM.
- 4) YAHYA HAMMOUDEH. ELDERLY LAWYER FROM JERUSALEM; FORMER CHAIRMAN OF PNC; PLO MEMBER.
- 5) ABD AL-KHALEQ YAGHMOUR. ELDERLY LAWYER; FORMER MAYOR OF HEBRON; LONG-TIME PLO MEMBER.
- 6) DR JAMIL MARAQA. PHYSICIAN EXPELLED FROM HEBRON.
- 7) DR YOUSEF SAMMOUR. SOVIET-TRAINED PHYSICIAN FROM BEERSHEBA AREA.

- 8) AHMAD AL-JAMAL. EXPELLED FROM WEST BANK; FREQUENTLY APPEARS AT PRO-PALESTINIAN PUBLIC GATHERINGS CLAIMING HE WAS TORTURED BY ISRAELIS.
- 9) OSAMA SHUNNAR. TEACHER EXPELLED FROM NABLUS.
- 10) MRS ABLA ABU TAHA (AKA ABLA ABU -'ULBAH). EXPELLED FROM WEST BANK.
- 11) RUSHDI SHAHIN. SECRETARY OF LENIN WING OF CPJ; FROM NABLUS.
- 12) ISHAQ DUZDAR. JERUSALEM BUSINESSMAN ACTIVE IN PLO SOCIAL SERVICES.
- 13) DR HANNA NASER. FORMER PRESIDENT OF RAMALLAH'S BEIR ZAYT UNIVERSITY; EXPELLED FROM WEST BANK IN 1976.

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MCT-01 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /097 W
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R 101124Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 869
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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- 14) DR ABD AL-AZIZ AL-HAJ AHMAD. PHYSICIAN EXPELLED FROM WEST BANK 1976.
- 15) MRS LATIFEH AL-JAMAL. EXPELLED FROM NABLUS.
- 16) SAJI SALAMEH. EXPELLED FROM WEST BANK 1976.
- 17) DR MUSTAPHA MILHELM. PHYSICIAN EXPELLED FROM WEST BANK 1976.
- 18) DR AHMAD NATSHEH. PHUSICIAL EXPELLED FROM HEBRON 1976.
- 19) DR ALFRED TOUBASI. DENTIST, ORIGINALLY FROM JAFFA, EXPELLED RECENTLY FROM RAMALLAH; HEAD OF OCCUPIED TERRITORIES SECTION OF AMMAN PLO OFFICE.
- 20) ABD AL-AZIZ AS-SAQR. MUXHTAR IN AMMAN'S WAHDAT REFUGEE CAMP; ALIGNED WITH FATAH.

- 21) ISMA'IL MUHAMMAD ISMA'IL. DITTO.
 - 22) AZMI MARAR. SYRIAN BA'ATH PARTY MEMBER EXPELLED FROM WEST BANK.
 - 23) 'ATALLAH AL-WAHIDI. MUXHTAR FROM BEQA' REFUGEE CAMP.
 - 24) KHADHR HUSSEIN. NOT KNOWN TO EMBASSY.
 - 25) DR NAFEZ AL-'AT'OUT. PHYSICIAN IN MINISTRY OF HEALTH.
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- 26) ISMA'IL AL-KHARRAZ. FORMER TEACHER; EXPELLED FROM WEST BANK.
- 27) SHAKIB DALLAL. MERCHANT FROM TULKARM NOW RESIDENT IN AMMAN.
- 28) 'ILAYYAN 'ILAYYAN. WAHDAT CAMP RESIDENT.

4. PLO INVITED FOLLOWING EAST BANK NOTABLES TO ATTEND AS OBSERVERS:

- A) BAHJAT AL-TALHOUNI. PRESIDENT OF SENATE; FORMER PRIME MINISTER; WAS TO ATTEND AS HEAD OF ARAB INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION. HE REFUSED AT GOJ SUGGESTION AND WILL SEND SYRIAN OR EGYPTIAN ARAB IPU DEPUTY.
- B) ABD AL-MUN'IM RIFAI. FORMER PRIME MINISTER WHO HAS HAD FREQUENT CONTACTS WITH PLO AND ARAFAT IN PAST. CURRENTLY HOSPITALIZED IN AMMAN.
- C) SHAFIQ IRSHAIDAT. LAWYER; SYG OF CAIRO-BASED ARAB PARLIAMENTARY UNION; SPEAKER AT RALLIES FOR PALESTINIAN CAUSE.
- D) SULEIMAN AL-HADIDI; LAWYER FROM SALT; HEAD OF JORDANIAN ADVOCATES' SYNDICATE (ALTHOUGH ELECTIONS FOR NEW PRESIDENT TO BE HELD MARCH 11); ACTIVE IN RADICAL CIRCLES.
- E) DR HASAN KHRAIS. FROM IRBID; RADICAL HEAD OF JORDANIAN PHYSICIANS' SYNDICATE.
- F) FARIS AN-NABULSI. SON OF FORMER PRIME MINISTER SULEIMAN AN-NABULSI; NOT ACTIVE LOCALLY.
- G) MAHMOUD MA'AYTA. RETIRED ARMY COLONEL FROM KERAK LONG ASSOCIATED WITH SYRIAN BA'ATHISTS; SERVED PRISON TERM FOR HIS ROLE IN ALI ABU NUWAR'S "FREE OFFICER'S MOVEMENT" AGAINST KING HUSSEIN.

5. COMPOSITION OF PNC DELEGATION HAS RECEIVED LUKE-WARM RECEPTION FROM ESTABLISHED EAST BANK PALESTINIAN COMMUNITY. IN COMPARISON TO PLO ACTIVISTS SURROUNDING ARAFAT DELEGATION MAY BE CONSIDERED MODERATE, BUT IN JORDANIAN CONTEXT, IMPRESSION IS ONE OF RADICALISM. WHILE PALESTINIANS WERE OBLIGED TO INCLUDE ON DELEGATION

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SUCH PATRIARCHS FROM JORDANIAN ESTABLISHMENT AS 'ABD AL-MAJID SHOUMAN (WHO, NEVERTHELESS HAS BANK-ROLLED PALESTINIAN CAUSE FOR MANY YEARS) LARGE NUMBER OF YOUTHFUL BUT MILITANT NEW FACES HAVE DISTURBED THOSE PALESTINIAN MODERATES IN AMMAN WHO HAD TAKEN SERIOUSLY PLO'S PREVIOUSLY (AND PRIVATELY)-EXPRESSED DESIRE FOR EXPANDED CONSTITUENCY, WITH IMPLICATION THIS MIGHT INCLUDE MODERATE PALESTINIANS WITH LITTLE CONNECTION WITH PLO. OLDER MEMBERS OF EAST BANK PALESTINIAN COMMUNITY HAVE CRITICIZED EXCLUSION, FOR EXAMPLE, OF MODERATE PALESTINIAN ELDERS REPRESENTATIVE EMILE GHOURI, FORMER MAYOR OF JERUSALEM RAWHI AL-KHATIB, OR DAOUD HUSSEINI, AS WELL AS OMISSION OF ANY PROMINENT BUSINESSMAN (EXCEPT FOR SHOUMAN). ALSO NOTEWORTHY THAT NO JORDANIAN UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR APPEARS ON LIST. DELEGATION, THEREFORE, IS VIEWED BY MANY AS BEING DOMINATED NUMERICALLY BY MALLEABLE NOVICES AND UNDER INFLUENCE OF LONG-TIME PLO ACTIVISTS WITH FEW TIES TO OR MANDATE FROM JORDANIAN ESTABLISHMENT OR MODERATE EAST BANK PALESTINIAN COMMUNITY. DELEGATION DOES NOT THEREFORE APPEAR TO BE THE KIND OF PLO REPRESENTATION THAT WOULD BE INCLINED TO OPPOSE ANY POSITIONS TAKEN BY THE CURRENT PLO LEADERSHIP AT THE PNC MEETING IN CAIRO. PICKERING

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Message Attributes

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